

PANCREATIC INJURIES

there is history of major blunt trauma to the epigastrium, particularly a steering wheel injury, the possibility of pancreatic injury is real. The patient often has abdominal pain out of proportion to the physical findings. Elevation of serum amylase content or a rising leukocyte count may be clues to the injury.

At laparotomy, systemic exploration of the pancreas is indicated. This requires inspection of the base of the mesocolon around the ligament of Treitz, opening the lesser sac, inspecting the anterior surface of the gland and examining the area around the duodenal sweep. The presence of blood requires further assessment which includes a Kocher maneuver to inspect and palpate the head of the gland if there is hematoma around

the duodenum, or mobilization of the body and tail should evidence of more distal injury be present.

Disruption of the integrity of the gland should be treated by distal resection for injuries of the body or tail. Major disruptions of the head of the gland, in the absence of duodenal injury, can be treated by radical distal resection. If the injury involves the duodenum, gastric diversion should be considered, utilizing distal gastric resection with gastroenterostomy combined with vagotomy. Only in the presence of severe devascularizing injuries of the head of the pancreas and the duodenum should a Whipple resection be considered. Drainage should be used routinely in all pancreatic injuries whether or not resection is carried out.

Epilepsy and Intercourse

MOST ADOLESCENTS who are epileptic are extraordinarily preoccupied with whether or not they will have a seizure while having intercourse. If you think about it, most post-pubertal youngsters are extremely interested in sexuality and "when is it going to happen to me?" The epileptic adolescent, of course, gets highly preoccupied as to whether he will, as it were, lose control during the sex act. In my clinical experience, it's rare indeed that this is an issue that's ever discussed with them. I used to be able to feel comfortable, actually, that one could be quite flatly reassuring with youngsters, because it never happened. But, regrettably, it does, because I saw a young man the other day who, in fact, did have a grand mal seizure while having intercourse.

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